

Agency Information

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3/9/78

Summary : Pre-Assassination, Mexico

I Russian Embassy Transcripts

A General Observations

1. The name of the Embassy appears at the top of the first page of each transcript. (Transcript here means one day's coverage on one phone.) This is followed by the number of the phone covered. (A series of three two-digit numbers) The next line gives the date of the coverage. The next line gives the tape reel number. On some of the transcripts this is followed by the time period (hours) covered by the transcript. On most of the transcripts the cite to where the conversation is on the reel appears on the left hand column opposite the referenced conversation. Generally, the time the conversation occurred, and a notation as to whether it is an incoming or outgoing call, appears at the beginning of the

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conversation

2 Generally, the transcripts appear to be paraphrases of the conversations rather than literal transcriptions. This is more true of the Spanish than the English transcripts. Some of the conversations in Spanish, and most of the English (Russian) ones, appear to be literal transcriptions.

3. ~~There are some~~ ^{Most of them} transcripts are in Spanish. In these transcripts there are references to those places on the tape where a conversation appears in Russian. These conversations appear later, transcribed into English.

4. In the English transcripts (conversation had been in Russian and/or English) the phrase "previously transcribed" often appears after a cite to the tape footage number. These conversations are not in the transcripts we

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examined. Ed and I did a careful cross-referencing check of all transcripts for a three day period to try to find those conversations denoted as "previously transcribed." Our check failed to turn up any of those conversations. When asked about this Russ Holmes said that he knew nothing about it. He suggested talking to Anne Goodpasture about it.

5. Marginal Comments are not infrequent in the English transcripts. The comments seem to be of two types, both of which are set off from the text by slash marks. The first type seems to cover those instances when the translator/transcriber is unsure of a word, identity or place. In this type the comment consists, generally, of a word or name followed by, sometimes, a question mark (Vera?)

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The second type is longer comments on the conversation and cover a more general area. These are usually prefaced with the word "Comment". Some examples:

- a. notation of alarm in a participant's voice;
- b. comments on the marital relationship of a Russian Embassy official (based on the observation that the official always speaks in a condescending tone to his wife);
- c. identifying a caller as the same as a man in a previous conversation;
- d. substitutions for literal transcriptions, i.e. a note saying there is an argument without transcribing the argument;
- e. comments on intonation;
- f. notes of background conversations;
- g. comments on participants' ability to speak the language.

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6. Ed noted that the Spanish in the transcripts is very poor.
7. The transcripts for September 15 + 16, if there are any, are not on the microfilm we examined. When asked about this Russ Holmes said it was probably because those days were a Saturday and Sunday and the intercept was shut down on those days. There are transcripts for every day between September 18 and October 3 inclusive.

II Information from the trans. A September 27, 1963.

1. A man calls the Soviet Military Attaché looking for a visa to Odessa. He is referred to the Consulate. He asks how to get to the Embassy and is given directions. This conversation is in the Spanish transcripts and appears to be a paraphrase.

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This conversation occurred between 10:30 and 10:50 A.M.

2. At 10:37 a man calls the Soviet Consulate and asks for the Consul. He is told that the Consul is not in. The man outside says that it is necessary for him to get a visa to Odessa. The person in the Embassy asks him to call back at 11:30. This is in the Spanish transcripts.

3. At 1:25 a man calls the Consulate and asks for the Consul. He is told that he (the Consul) is not in. The man outside asks, "when tomorrow?" The Consulate official tells him between 4 or 5 on Mondays and Fridays. This is in Spanish.

4. At approximately 4:05 pm Sylvia Duran calls the Soviet Embassy. She tells the man there that the American citizen was ~~at~~ there at the Cuban Embassy.

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the one who wants a visa
to Cuba in transit to Russia.
Sylvia says that he wants
to know who he talked
to at the Soviet Embassy
because she had sent him
there saying that if he got a
Soviet visa that he could
then get a Cuban one and
all they would have to do
was notify immigration.
The man at the Cuban Embassy
seeking the visa wants to
know who he spoke to at
the Soviet Embassy because
he was assured that there
would be no problem. The
man at the Soviet Embassy
puts another man on the
phone and Sylvia goes
through the same thing
with him. He tells her to
leave her name and phone
number and says he will
call back. This transcript
is in Spanish.

5. At 4:26 an unidentified Soviet
Consulate Official calls)

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Silvia Duran. The Soviet Official (hereinafter SO) asks her if the American has been there. Silvia responds that he is there now. The SO says that the American showed papers from the Soviet Consulate in Washington, D.C., and that he wants to go to the USSR where he plans to stay for a long time with his wife who is Russian. The SO says that he has not received an answer to this man's problem from Washington and it traditionally takes four to five months. The SO says that, unless they have permission from the USSR they can't issue a visa without getting permission from Washington. However, the SO says, the man has a letter showing that he is a member of an organization that favors Cuba, but the Cubans can't give him a visa without him first getting a

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Soviet visa and the S.O.
doesn't know what to do
with him now because
they should wait for an
answer from Washington.
Silvia agrees and says
that it is doubtful that
the Cubans will give him
a visa because he doesn't
know anyone in Cuba and
that would be a problem
because he wanted to wait
in Cuba while his Soviet
visa was being processed and
he knew that would take
quite a while. The S.O. says
that his wife could get a visa
in Washington very quickly
and she could have it sent
anywhere. But the S.O. doesn't
think that they will get
the visa or permission
soon. Silvia says it is
clear that they can't give
him a letter because they
don't know if the visa will
be approved. The S.O. says
that they only give visas

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when it is appropriate. Silvia says that that is what she will put down on the forms. The SO says that they can't give him a letter of recommendation because they don't know him, sorry to bother you. Silvia: No problem. This transcript is in Spanish.

B. September 28, 1963. (Saturday):
Silvia Duran calls the Soviet Consulate at 11:51 A.M. She says that there is a North American there who had been at the Soviet Embassy before. The SO asks her to wait one minute. (proceeding in Spanish, following in English):

"Please see the Spanish transcription / WO while waiting
speaks in English to someone in the background: He said
wait.. Do you speak Russian?
Yes. Why don't you talk to
him? I don't know.. / M/S
takes the phone and says in
broken Russian / I was in

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your Embassy and spoke to your consul. Just a minute MI takes the phone and asks MO in English what does he want.

MO: /in Russian/ Please speak Russian.

MI: What else do you want?

MO: I was just now at your Embassy and they took my address.

MI: I know that.

MO: /speaks terrible, hardly recognizable Russian/ I did not know it then. I went to the Cuban Embassy to ask them for my address, because they have it.

MI: Why don't you come again and leave your address with us, it not far from the Cuban Embassy.

MO: I'll be there right away."

The Spanish transcript indicates that the MO first spoke Russian, the MI responded in English and then they

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both spoke in English. The transcript in Oswald's Mexican file is a carbon.

C. October 1, 1963.

1. At 10:31 A.M. a man calls the Soviet Military Attaché:

"Mo to MI, in broken Russian.

Mo: Hello. (sic) I was at your place last Saturday and I talked to your consul. They said ^{THAT} they'd send a telegram to Washington and I wanted to ask you if there was anything new?

MI: I'd like to ask you to call another phone number.

Mo: Please Please.

MI: Please write it down; 15-6055 and ask for a consul.

Mo: Thank you.

MI: Please "

(English transcript)

2. A man calls the consul later. There is not a time on the transcript. A Chronology of the Mexico City investigation (WX-7241; Vol I.) places

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this call at 10:45 AM. The Oswald Mexican file has a Xeroxed copy of the English transcripts:
"I'm at ~~xx~~(?) (sic) mo/the same person who phoned a day or so ago and spoke in broken Russian/speaks to Obyeskov.

mo: Hello, this is Lee Oswald (phon) speaking, I was at your place last Saturday and spoke to a consul, and they said that they'd send a telegram to Washington, so I wanted to find out if you have anything new? But I don't remember the name of that consul.

OBY: Kostikov. He is dark/hair or skin?

LEE: Yes. My name is Oswald.

OBY: Just a minute I'll find out. They say that they haven't received anything yet.

LEE: Have they done anything?

OBY: Yes, they say that a request

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has been sent out, but nothing has been received as yet.

L&L: And what...? OBY hangs up!" The one subsequent and two prior conversations are designated "previously transcribed".

O On October 3 a man calls the Soviet Military Attaché and speaks in broken Spanish and then English. The MO asks for a visa for Russia and is asked to call the Consulate at 15-60-55. After being given the number the MO asks "They issue the visa there?" and the MI says he doesn't know anything about it and says call the consulate. (English transcript)

III Info from [redacted]
Oswald's Mexico file:

- A. 9/27;
- B. 9/27;
- C. 9/27;



Kerox copy

" " "

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O. 9/27/ [REDACTED]

carbon copy taped to another page.

1. portions underlined in red. (not on Xerox)

2. [REDACTED] writes: "Is it possible to identify?"

3. routed to [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

5. filed [REDACTED] - date of filing instructions or other notations not indicated.

E. 9/27; [REDACTED]; carbon copy.

1. parts underlined in red

CIA employees 2. routed to [REDACTED]

3. file instructions to [REDACTED]

4. no dates indicated.

5. "①"

F. 9/28; [REDACTED]; carbon copy.

1. parts underlined in red

2. "①"

CIA officers 3. routed to [REDACTED]

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file instruction

4. file instructions to [REDACTED]

5 no date

G. ① 10/1; [REDACTED] Kerox

H. 10/1; [REDACTED] "

I. 10/3;

J. I have requested [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] file
from Barbara and am
attempting to locate
any other carbon or
original copies [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAYS THAT IF THE CARBONS
FOR ORIGINALS ARE NOT IN THE MEXICAN
FILE, THEN THEY PROBABLY DON'T EXIST.

IV Information from cable traffic to and from Mexico City, Oswald's Mexican file, and his HQR's ^{FILE} [REDACTED] and WX-7241:

A. On 10/1/63 Mexi 6344 to HQ reports that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is on TDY in Washington, D.C.

B. Mexi 6384, dated 10/3/63, subject undetermined, is missing from the cable chronology.

C. DIR 72527, dated 10/4/63, says:

CIA offici-

file

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Mexi will arrive 7 Oct

[in Miami] for two d
consultation WAVE... fa
Mexi: Mr. Phillips ETA
Mexi 9 Oct... "

0. October 1 + 4, 1963.

1. Oswald's Mexican file
contains an envelope @ four
prints of photos of the man.
The envelope says: "Duplicates of
unidentified man photos
in the 201" in blue printing.
In red script it says: "Photos
of unidentified person on
entering Sov Embassy.
1 + 4 Oct '63."

internal file designation 2 [redacted]
[redacted] apparently prepared
in 1967, also places the date
of these photos on 1 + 4 October
as does post-assassination
cable traffic and [redacted]
which refers to [redacted] an
unidentified man entering
the Embassy on one October.

IN 36017

CIA office 3 [redacted]
[redacted] recently
informed me that the correct
dates are 2 and 4 October.

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M 36017

E. On 8 October 1963, [REDACTED] (S-1-A)
is sent to H. Q.

CIA official

" "

[REDACTED] The Authenticating Officer (A.O.) was [REDACTED] and the Releasing Officer (R.O.) was [REDACTED]. The cable reports contact with Oswald's [REDACTED] Obryedkov on 1 Oct. 3; Oswald's statement that he had been there on the 28th; and the inquiry and response about the telegram.] The 2nd paragraph says: "Have photos male appears be American [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Appearance age 35, athletic build, circa 6 feet, receding hairline, balding top. Wore khakis and sport shirt. "There is not a routing slip on this cable."

M 36017

F. HQ responded to [REDACTED] with DIR 74830 (7-2) on 10 October 1963.

CIA official

" "

" "

[REDACTED] A.O. was [REDACTED] and the R.O. was [REDACTED]. This

cable provides a summary of

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bio info on Oswald including his DOB, date of defection, description, his return to the U.S., and his marriage. It says that the stay in the USSR "clearly had a maturing effect on Oswald." It reported that the last info received by HQ was a May 1962 memo that reported that it had been determined that L.O. was still a U.S. citizen and that he and his family had been given visas to return to the U.S. Mexico was instructed to pass Oswald's DOB, fact of defection, and description to the FBI, Navy, I+NS and the Embassy locally. HQ said that it was passing the info in [REDACTED] and the ident data to FBI, State, Navy, I+NS HQ's. This cable calls him "Lee Harvey Oswald".

The routing slip in the Mexican files indicate that this cable went to [REDACTED]

CIA offices

[REDACTED] noted:

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"He should ask HQ for photo No?"

CIA offices

[REDACTED] noted that the local dissemination requested was done on 15 October [REDACTED]
requested that [REDACTED] file be opened on Lee Harvey Oswald
"and put all data we have into it. Photos?"

G. On 9 October 1963 [REDACTED]
informed HQ that Mexi urgently needed news [REDACTED]

Tarasoff, Floryan Randolph Hartley and an as yet unidentified person.] The cable reported that the [machines used by these people were constantly breaking down and that transporting them for repairs was a security problem.]

H. The October 10th HQ dissemination

CIA officers

internal org.

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1963 [redacted]

[redacted] reported that an American male, who identified himself as Lee Oswald, contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City inquiring whether the Embassy had received any news concerning a telegram which had been sent to Washington. The American was described as approximately 35 years old, with an athletic build, about six feet tall, with a receding hairline.

The cable goes on to say that it is believed that the man is identical to Lee Henry Oswald and gives bio info on him (DIR 74673, dated 10/10/63.)

IN 40357 J. On 10/15/63 [redacted] was dated.
CIA officers Orig. + A.O. [redacted]
R.O. [redacted]

ref: DIR 74830

It said: "Pls pouch photo Oswald." I have not found a response to this cable in either the Mexico cable traffic chrono or Oswald's Mexican file. I have asked [redacted]

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to provide the dispatches
to and from Mexico between
the dates of 10/13 and 10/26 [REDACTED]
said that this might not get
all the pouches materials
because HQ sometimes used
what he called "an [unattributable]
pouch" This cable does not
have an RS attached.

*should read
"unattributable"
my error.*

K. Cable originating with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on 23 Oct. 1963. It
was sent on the 24th.

A.O.: [REDACTED], R.O.: [REDACTED]
Ref: DIR 74673.

"It is requested that you
forward to this office as soon
as possible two copies of
the most recent photograph
you have of Lee Henry Oswald.
We will forward them to our
representative in Mexico, who
will attempt to determine if
the Lee Oswald in Mexico City
and subject are the same
individual."

L. On 16 October 1963 [REDACTED]
wrote a memo to the Ambassa-
dor [REDACTED]

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[It reported that the information was from a very [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], that a man IDing himself as Lee Oswald had contacted the Sovemb on 1 October; that he had previously contacted them on 28 Sept.; that he had talked to Kostikov about a reply to his request; LO's OOB; his defection; and a promise to pass on any additional info obtained.]

(9-5 FOIA) The memo says, in part:

"This office determined that Oswald had been at the Soviet Embassy on 28 September 1963 and had talked with Valeriy [REDACTED] Vladimirovich Kostikov, a member of the Consular Section, in order to learn if the Soviet Embassy had received a reply from Washington concerning his request. [REDACTED] We have no clarifying

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information with regard
to this request." The original
of this memo went to:

The Ambassador

The Minister

Counselor for Political Affairs

Regional Security Officer

Copies to:

Legat

Naval Attaché

I + NS

Oswald "P"

50-2-4-1 (written over 1)

Liaison with Legat.

" " Naval Attaché.

IV Info from [redacted] production
and logs; [redacted]

[redacted] tells me he is
having trouble locating these
documents but will make
them available if and when
he can find them.

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